CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing a plurality of data files for a web browser, the system comprising:

a storage area on a computer storage medium, the storage area storing the data files;

a computer configured to access the storage area;

a first database configured to index the data files stored in the storage area; and

a program executable on the computer and configured to generate at least one automated search string, the program further configured to search the database index according to the automated search sting and identify data files associated with the automated search string.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a second database configured to index data files stored in the storage area corresponding to a network site the user has grouped in a first list.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the program is further configured to generate at least one automated search string corresponding to the data files indexed by the second database.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the program is further configured to search the first database index upon an activation of an event.

5. The system of claim 4, wherein the event is activated when the web browser average access time to access the data files in the storage area exceeds a threshold time.

6. The system of claim 4, wherein the event is activated when the web browser is launched.

7. The system of claim 5, wherein the program is further configured to delete all identified data files.

8. The system of claim 3, wherein the program is further configured to search the first and second databases upon an activation of an event.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the event is activated when the web browser average access time to data files in the storage area exceeds a threshold time.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the program is further configured to delete all data files not identified from the search.

11. The system of claim 3, further comprising a third database configured to store access frequencies corresponding to stored data files.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the program is further configured to search the first, second, and third databases upon an activation of an event.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the program is further configured to delete all data files identified during the search.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the program is further configured to retain a data file identified during the search if the data file has an associated access frequency that exceeds a predetermined reference value.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the program is further configured to index in the third database the data file having an associated access frequency that exceeds a predetermine reference value.

16. The system of claim 14, where the program is further configured to retain a data file identified during the search if the data file corresponds to a stored file indexed by the third database.

17. The system of claim 2, further comprising a third database, the third database configured to store a user-defined search string and the automated search string.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the third database indexes the search strings by a type key, the type key having a first value corresponding to a retention value, and a second value corresponding to a deletion value.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the program is further configured to retain data files identified by a search using a search string indexed by the retention value, and delete data files identified by a search using a search string indexed by a deletion value.

20. The system of claim 11, wherein the program is further configured to delete a data file if the data file has an associated access frequency that is lower than a predetermined reference value.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the system is further configured to remove from the first list the network site corresponding to the data file having an associated access frequency that falls below a predetermine reference value.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the program is further configured to remove the index in the third database corresponding to the data file having an associated access frequency that falls below a predetermine reference value.

23. A system for managing stored data files for a web browser, the system comprising:

a storage area on a computer storage medium, the storage area storing the data files;

a computer configured to access the storage area;

a database configured to index data files stored in the storage area during a single browsing session; and

a program executable on the computer configured to search the database and identify data files stored in the storage area and indexed by the database.

24. The system of claim 23, wherein the program is further configured to delete data files indexed in the database upon terminating the single browsing session.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the program is further configured to identify by a user-defined criteria data files indexed in the database and to retain identified data files indexed in the database upon exiting the browsing session.

26. A method for managing a plurality of data files stored in a storage area for a web browser, the method comprising the steps of:

indexing the stored data files in a database to provide a database index;

generating automated search strings based on the stored data files in the storage area;

searching the database according to the automated search stings; and

identifying data files associated with the automated search strings.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of searching the database according to the automated search strings includes the steps of:

defining a search event; and

initiating the search according to the automated search strings after the occurrence of the event.

28. The method of claim 27, further including the step of deleting all data files identified from the search.

29. The method of claim 27, further including the step of deleting all data files not identified from the search.

30. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

determining an access frequency for a data file stored in the storage area; and

retaining the data file if the corresponding access frequency is above a threshold value.

31. The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of:

determining an access frequency for a data file stored in the storage area; and

deleting the data file if the corresponding access frequency is below a threshold value.

32. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of generating automated search strings comprises the steps of:

identifying all data files corresponding to a common network address; and

using the common network address as a search term

33. A method for managing a plurality of data files stored in a storage area for a web browser, the method comprising the steps of:

launching the web browser to begin a browsing session;

indexing data files stored during the browsing session in a database; and

deleting all data files indexed during the browsing session when the browsing session is terminated.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the step of deleting all data files indexed during the browsing session when the browsing session is terminated comprises the steps of:

selecting data files indexed during the browsing session;

retaining selected data files indexed during the browsing session when the web browser is terminated; and

deleting data files not selected and indexed during the browsing session when the web browser is terminated

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the step of selecting data files includes the step of:

selecting a data file type; and

retaining all data files of the selected data file type indexed during the browsing session when the browsing session is terminated.

36. A system for managing a plurality of data files for a web browser, the system comprising:

a computer storage medium;

a computer configured to access the storage medium;

a first list of network addresses stored on the computer storage medium;

a storage area on the computer storage medium, the storage area storing the data files; and

a program executable on the computer, the program configured to identify data files associated with the first list of network addresses and delete data files not associated with the first list of network addresses.

37. The system of claim 36, wherein the program is further configured to determine an access frequency associated with a data file and modify the first list of network addresses based on the access frequency of the data file.

38. The system of claim 37, wherein the program modifies the first list of network addresses by deleting the network address corresponding to the data file if the associated access frequency is less than a threshold value.

39. The system of claim 37, wherein the program modifies the first list of network addresses by adding the network address corresponding to the data file if the associated access frequency is greater than a threshold value.

40. The system of claim 36, wherein the program is further configured to determine an access time associated with the computer accessing the storage area, and further configured to delete data files in the storage area if the access time exceeds a threshold value.

41. The system of claim 36, further comprising:

a second list of network addresses; and

wherein the program is further configured to store in the second list of network addresses network addresses associated with data files that are stored in the storage area during a browsing session.

42. The system of claim 41, wherein the program is further configured to delete data files associated with the second list of network addresses after termination of the browsing session.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the program is further configured to determine an access time associated with the computer accessing the storage area, and further configured to delete data files in the storage area if the access time exceeds a threshold value.

44. A system for managing a plurality of data files for a web browser, the system comprising:

a computer storage medium;

a computer configured to access the storage medium;

a list of network addresses stored on the computer storage medium;

a storage area on the computer storage medium, the storage area storing the data files; and

a program executable on the computer, the program configured to determine an access frequency associated with one of the data files and modify the list of network addresses based on the access frequency of the data file.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the program modifies the list of network addresses by deleting the network addresses corresponding to the data file with an associated access frequency less than a threshold value.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein the program modifies the list of network addresses by adding the network addresses corresponding to the data file with an associated access frequency greater than a threshold value.

47. A system for managing a plurality of data files for a web browser, the system comprising:

a storage area on a computer storage medium, the storage area storing the data files;

a computer configured to access the storage area; and

a program executable on the computer, the program configured to determine an access time associated with the computer accessing storage area, and further configured to delete data files in the storage area if the access time exceeds a threshold value.

48. The system of claim 47, further comprising:

a list of network addresses; and

wherein the program is further configured to retain data files in the storage area associated with the list of network addresses.

49. A method of managing a plurality of data files for a web browser, the method comprising the steps of:

storing the data files on a computer storage medium;

creating a first list of network addresses;

storing the first list of network addresses on the computer storage medium; and

deleting from the computer storage medium data files not associated with the first list of network addresses.

50. The method of claim 49, further comprising:

determining an access frequency associated with one of the data files; and

modifying the first list of network addresses based on the access frequency of the data file.

51. The method of claim 50, wherein the step of modifying the first list of network addresses based on the access frequency of the data file comprises the step of deleting from the first list of network addresses the network address corresponding to the data file with an associated access frequency less than a threshold value.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein the step of modifying the first list of network addresses based on the access frequency of the data file comprises the step of adding to the first list of network addresses the network address corresponding to the data file with an associated access frequency greater than a threshold value.

53. The method of claim 52, further comprising the steps of:

determining an access time associated with accessing the data files; and

deleting data files if the access time exceeds a threshold value.

54. The method of claim 50, further comprising the steps of:

determining an access time associated with accessing the data files; and

deleting data files if the access time exceeds a threshold value.

55. The method of claim 49, further comprising the steps of:

creating a second list of network addresses;

storing the second list of network addresses on the computer storage medium;

adding to the second list of network addresses network addresses accessed during a browsing session;

storing corresponding data files corresponding to the second list of network addresses; and

deleting the corresponding data files corresponding with the second list of network addresses after the browsing session is terminated.

56. The method of claim 55, further including the step of retaining corresponding data files corresponding with the second list of network addresses if the corresponding data files also correspond to the first list of network addresses.